(b) whether Government are considering the appointment of any IAS Officer as head of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO); and

(c) whether the matter has been referred to UPSC for selection ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) There is no fixed tenure provided for the post of Drugs Controller of India as per the notified rules. However, the said post has been upgraded to the post of Drugs Controller General of India, for which the rules are being formulated.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Ban on smoking at public places

2181. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued orders in the wake of the Supreme Court's recent judgement to ban smoking in all public places in the country;

(b) if so, whether a monitoring machinery has been set up to ensure implementation of the judgement of the apex court; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India has passed an order on 2-11-2001 directing prohibition of smoking in public places, namely, Auditoriums, Hospital Buildings, Health Institutions, Educational Institutions, Libraries, Court Buildings, Public Office and Public Conveyances, including Railways and issued directions to the Union of India, State Governments as well as the Union Territories to take effective steps to ensure prohibiting smoking in public places. A written communication has been sent from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to Health Secretaries of all States and Union Territories, requesting them to take necessary action to ensure prohibition of smoking in public places and to take necessary effective steps to give wide publicity to the orders of the Supreme Court in electronic and print media so that the general public are aware that smoking is prohibited in public places and as such they should comply with the orders of the Supreme Court. An advertisement has been issued by this Ministry in leading newspapers giving wide publicity to the orders of the Supreme Court similar for compliance by the General Public.